W. OSMOND SMITH III
SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE   TELEPHONE: (336) 459-4016

December 2, 2014

The Honorable John W. Smith
Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
Post Office Box 2448
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Re: Research and Advisory Committee on Court Reporters

Dear Judge Smith:

Please accept this letter as a statement of the position of the North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges regarding the issue of live court reporters versus digital recording technology as the method for making the official record of proceedings in the Superior Court. Our Conference overwhelmingly supports the practice of reporting by live court reporters as the best method of providing the official record. This position has been put forward by a prior resolution, and was re-affirmed by a unanimous vote of the members of our Conference at its recent annual meeting.

It is my request on behalf of the Conference of Superior Court Judges that this statement of our position be considered by the Research and Advisory Committee on Court Reporters and the Administrative Office of the Courts in reporting to the legislature, and that regardless of the report to the legislature, that our position be conveyed as well. I cannot over-emphasize how strongly the judges of the Superior Court feel about this issue.

I could go on in great detail as to the reasons for our position, but since I understand that the merits of live reporters versus digital recording technology have been well expressed by others, I will spare you my further arguments. However, if you or the Committee would be receptive to further input from the Superior Court bench, I will make every effort to follow-up in whatever format or forum that you would prefer.

Thanking you for your attention and consideration herein, I am

Sincerely yours,

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

W. Osmond Smith III
President